

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A damper comprising:
 - a pressure tube defining a longitudinal axis and forming a working chamber;
 - a damper piston disposed within said working chamber, said damper piston dividing said working chamber into an upper working chamber and a lower working chamber;
 - a piston rod attached to said damper piston and extending through said pressure tube;
 - a rod guide assembly disposed between said piston rod and said pressure tube; said rod guide assembly comprising:
 - a main housing;
 - a first seal disposed between a first component of said rod guide assembly and said piston rod;
 - a second seal disposed between a second component of said rod guide assembly and said piston rod;
 - a fluid chamber disposed between said first and second seal; and
 - a guide piston movable with respect to said fluid chamber to vary the volume of said fluid chamber.

2. The damper according to Claim 1 wherein said first component is said main housing.

3. The damper according to Claim 2 wherein said second component is said guide piston.

4. The damper according to Claim 1 wherein said second component is said guide piston.

5. The damper according to Claim 1 wherein said guide piston slidingly engages said main housing.

6. The damper according to Claim 5 wherein said first component is said main housing.

7. The damper according to Claim 6 wherein said second component is said guide piston.

8. The damper according to Claim 5 wherein said second component is said guide piston.

9. The damper according to Claim 1 wherein said guide piston slidingly engages said pressure tube.

10. The damper according to Claim 9 wherein said first component is said main housing.

11. The damper according to Claim 10 wherein said second component is said guide piston.

12. The damper according to Claim 9 wherein said second component is said guide piston.

13. The damper according to Claim 1 wherein said guide piston slidingly engages a sleeve disposed between said pressure tube and said piston.

14. The damper according to Claim 13 wherein said first component is said main housing.

15. The damper according to Claim 14 wherein said second component is said guide piston.

16. The damper according to Claim 13 wherein said second component is said guide piston.

17. The damper according to Claim 13 wherein said sleeve is attached to said main housing.

18. The damper according to Claim 13 wherein said rod guide assembly further comprises a retainer disposed between said guide piston and said damper piston, said retainer providing a stop for said guide piston.

19. The damper according to Claim 18 wherein said retainer provides a stop for said damper piston.

20. The damper according to Claim 18 wherein said retainer abuts said sleeve.

21. The damper according to Claim 1 wherein said rod guide assembly further comprises a retainer disposed between said guide piston and said damper piston, said retainer providing a stop for said guide piston.

22. The damper according to Claim 21 wherein said retainer is attached to said main housing.

23. The damper according to Claim 21 wherein said retainer is attached to said pressure tube.

24. The damper according to Claim 1 further comprising a dust wiper disposed between said rod guide assembly and said piston rod.

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